

## God's Love In Between

**"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."  
(Romans 8:38-39)**



This passage from Romans is one I like to hold on to during Lent, and in Holy Week, and in the seasons of life that feel heavy with the kinds of contradictions and grief that Lent and Holy Week remind us of. In a couple weeks, on Easter morning, we will cry "Alleluia!" and celebrate that death does not have the final word, but in these in-between spaces, as we finish our journey through Lent, there's value in sitting with the realities of life that can sometimes make God's love feel far away.

We only get to Easter by going through Holy Week. By grieving through Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, sitting with the pain, rejection, and loss that was as real for Jesus as it is for us in our own lives. We honor those realities by taking time to grieve our losses, to grieve the changes in our lives that we may not have chosen or hoped for. We honor those losses by telling the truth about them, and trusting that even in our

deepest pain, God's light is bright enough to break through; not to cover up or ignore the pain, but to be with us alongside it in the messy middle seasons of our lives.

There are lots of opportunities to connect at Westminster in this time. We'll begin Holy Week with Palm Sunday on April 13th, considering the balance of power and humility. Later, on Thursday April 17th, we'll gather at 6pm for our combined Maundy Thursday and Good Friday simple supper and worship service. On Saturday, April 19th, we'll experience a little early Easter joy with the children's Easter party, and finally on Sunday April 20th, we'll gather for worship on Easter morning to celebrate the ways God calls us to new and abundant hope through Christ's resurrection.

But even then, we remember the in-between spaces. Even in his resurrected body, Jesus still bears the marks of his wounds. His scars remain, even as he is transformed. The same is true for us. Resurrection does not erase our pain, but it reveals that new life is possible even in the midst of it. So much of our faith is about those between-spaces, the places where God walks with us even when we don't have everything figured out. That hope carries us into Easter and beyond.

Wherever you find yourself in this season, I pray that these final weeks of Lent and the beginning of Easter will offer you space to know and feel the deep truth that nothing—absolutely nothing—can separate you from the love of God.

Peace,  
*Rev. Hannah Lundberg*

# Engaging Our Neighbors

## Kid's Easter Party!

Coming up on Saturday, April 19, we will host our annual Kid's Easter Party. Come by Westminster 10am-11:30am to enjoy a small-animal petting farm, crafts, story time, and of course, an Easter Egg Hunt!

Bring your kids and grandkids, invite your neighbors, and join the fun!



## Habitat House of Faith

Westminster started off this year's Habitat House of Faith build last month on March 22nd. Our next day, April 4, already has all of its volunteer spots full!

There is still space to sign up for our last two service days of the year: **Friday, May 9, and Friday, August 8**. No experience necessary, and all tools will be provided! Visit our website for more information and to sign up, or contact Ron Fairchild with questions ([ron@thefairchilds.net](mailto:ron@thefairchilds.net)).

## Children's Literacy Network Recap

After worship on Sunday March 30th, we enjoyed a great presentation from Kara and Ally of Children's Literacy Network. They shared with us about the work their organization does in Washtenaw County to provide equitable opportunities for children to develop a love of reading and books. CLN has a number of volunteer opportunities available to read with children regularly or help out with one-off literacy events. For more information on volunteer opportunities, you can visit CLN's Volunteer Page or contact Kara ([kara@childrensliteracynetwork.org](mailto:kara@childrensliteracynetwork.org)).



# Our Life Together

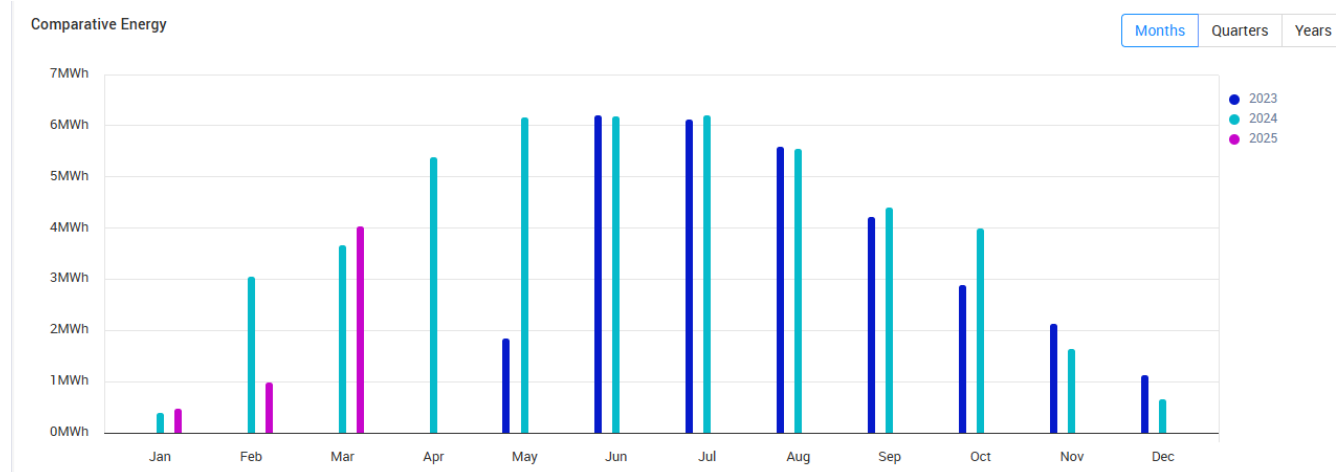
## April is Earth Month: Solar Update

Westminster's solar energy system is supporting both the health of the earth and reducing our operating costs. The system has been in place for close to 2 years and we are almost in the peak of solar season. The length of the day has the greatest impact on the amount of solar energy we generate. We can make a decent amount of energy even on cloudy days.

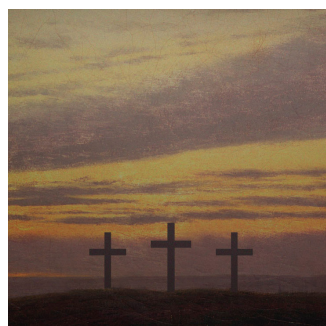
To date we have:

**Produced 82.8 MWh | Saved \$8,800 in electric bills | Saved 128,000 pounds in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions**

Our performance to date is shown in the graph below. This past February snow on the solar panels reduced our production. In June and July, we generate enough energy to cover all of our usage.



We also celebrate Westminster's recertification as an Earth Care Congregation! This achievement, awarded by the PC(USA) Presbyterian Hunger Program, recognizes congregations who are committed to environmental stewardship achievements in worship, education, facilities, and outreach actions in the life of the church.



## Holy Week Service

With Easter coming up this month, the Worship Ministry Team is planning our Holy Week Service on Thursday, April 17. This gathering combines the liturgy and traditions of

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday on the same day and includes a simple meal together.

It will begin at 6pm with a modest meal in Fellowship Hall where we will also hear the traditional scriptures of Maundy Thursday and partake in holy communion. We will then move to the Sanctuary and continue

our worship focusing on the liturgy and events of Good Friday.

While this format is quite simple in design, we will need support from all of you. There are signup sheets on the bulletin board near the library to bring food: soup in crockpots, crackers, and cookies. We also need help with the set up and/or clean up. Many hands make light work and bring us an even stronger sense of Christian community. We're hoping everyone will be able to participate in our Holy Week Service on April 17.

If you have questions, contact Lynda Berg ([lrwberg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lrwberg@sbcglobal.net)).





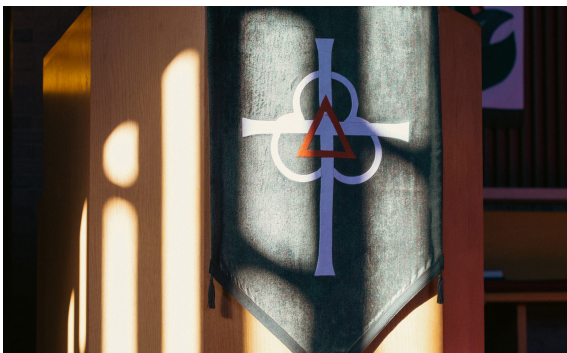
## Organ Recital Series

Thank you to everyone who came to hear the wonderful organ recital this past month, and thank you to Shawn McDonald and Sonia Lee for an incredible performance! We have two more installments coming up in this recital series.

On Sunday, May 4th at 2pm, Shawn will be joined by soprano, Kira Slovacek for a recital of organ solos and vocal selections by American, French, and Czech composers.

The grand finale will be on Sunday, June 8th at 4pm and feature a fabulous choral concert that combines voices in large and small groups with our glorious new organ. A reception will follow. We will be reaching out to

all current and former Westminster Choir members to participate in this event. If you are interested in joining us, contact Shawn McDonald at [smtenor@yahoo.com](mailto:smtenor@yahoo.com) for music and the rehearsal schedule.



## This Month's Preaching Schedule:

**April 6:** Rev. Hannah Lundberg (Communion)

**April 13:** Rev. Hannah Lundberg, *Palm Sunday*

**April 17:** *Holy Week Service*

**April 20:** Rev. Hannah Lundberg, *Easter Sunday*

**April 27:** Nate Veldhoff



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